

Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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APRIL 15, 1928

"The outermost point and innermost ground of all phenomena of the earliest life and activity of the child is this: the child must bring into exercise the dim anticipation of conscious life in itself as well as of life around it; and consequently must exercise power, test and thus compare power; exercise independence and test and thus compare the degree of independence."—FROEBEL.

PROGRAM

Child Welfare League of America National Conference of Social Work

MEMPHIS, MAY 2-9, 1928

(Meetings will be held in the First Methodist Church Sunday School Building, unless otherwise noted.)

WEDNESDAY, May 2d.—3 P. M.

Processes in the Field of Child Welfare that are common to Child-placing Agencies and Child-caring Institutions.

Values and Applications of Case Work in the Children's Field.

Chairman: C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America, New York.

(A) The need of inquiry in every case of an application for service to determine whether a new home is necessary, and if so, what kind is needed.

Miss Emma S. Hardcastle, Georgia Children's Home Society, Atlanta, Ga.

(B) Need of case work with the family, if there is such, when a child comes into care.

Lawrence C. Cole, The Children's Bureau, Cleveland, Ohio.

Miss Katharine P. Hewins, The Church Home Society, Boston, Mass.

(C) The responsibility of a children's agency or institution for utilizing and if necessary creating community resources.

Miss Elizabeth Munro Clarke, New York City.

FRIDAY, May 4th.—3 P. M.

Health Service and Isolation upon Intake for Institutions and Child-placing Agencies.

Chairman: Everett W. DuVall, Children's Community Center of the New Haven Orphan Asylum, New Haven, Conn.

Representing child-placing agencies:

Paul T. Beisser, Henry Watson Children's Aid Society, Baltimore, Maryland.

Representing institutions:

Joseph B. Johnston, Presbyterian Orphans' Home, Barium Springs, North Carolina.

(Continued on page 3, column 2)

INSTITUTION NEWS

ALLOCATION OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

The Orthodox Jewish Orphan Home of Cleveland, Ohio, has recently published a history covering the eight-year period since the Home was established.

The group responsible for organizing the institution started out with a definite antagonism toward modern social methods due to two causes: (1) lack of appreciation of such methods, and (2) the expressed opinion on the part of existing social agencies that an orthodox institution for children was not needed since Cleveland already had one Home for Jewish Children.

There is still no reason to believe that orthodox Jewish children could not have been properly provided for in accordance with orthodox principles without investing in institutional care. However, the important thing is, that, having won the fight to establish the institution, there has been a definite social evolution on the part of the orthodox group.

If in the next eight years there is as much progress as the following article on allocation, by Mr. Neshkes, the president, proves there has been in the period just ended, it is possible that subsequent reports will point out accomplishments that, as yet, are undreamed of:

"The purpose in writing this article is to present my opinions as to the proper type of placement for dependent children.

"The method employed formerly, at the death of a parent or both parents, was the immediate acceptance of a child, upon application, without attempting to solve the problem of finding a home for the child in any other way. From a humane point of view, this perhaps was the only alternative.

"During the five years which I have been associated with this institution, I have had the opportunity to gain experience, through contact with other social agencies, and problems which have arisen at the Home, resulting in the following conclusions:

- "1. Investigation is necessary to determine the possibility of keeping the child in his own home, or inducing a near relative to care for him, in view of the fact that a child not only requires physical comfort, but craves for affection and love which cannot be supplemented.
- "2. Ability to adjust to group life must be determined. This is based upon the physical and mental status of the child.

(Continued on page 5, column 2)

HOW TO KNOW A FOSTER FAMILY

PART I

CHARLOTTE TOWLE, *Director*

Home Finding Department, Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania

How to know a family—There are books on, How to Know a Picture—How to Judge a Horse—Wild Flowers I have Known—there are volumes galore on the flora and fauna of this region and that realm, libraries are being assembled on the subject of parents *per se*, while children of each and every age are being discussed in terms of the Pre-School Child, the School Child, the Pre-Adolescent, the Adolescent, etc. Considerable has been written about the history of the family, particularly with reference to the moral, social and religious customs, but there is no neatly bound volume entitled, "How to Know a Family," which will serve as a guide to the home finder, thus enabling her to enter a home and to emerge shortly thereafter with complete understanding of the family *in toto*, an understanding which will assure the placement of the child to fit the home, and the home to fit the child.

Just as the study of a child involves a physical examination, a mental examination, and a careful evaluation of the youngster's emotional nature, in order that he may be fully understood, so must a family be considered as an interplay of physical, mental and emotional elements, each phase calling for a thoughtful evaluation before any opinion or decision is reached as to the suitability, or unsuitability, of a home. The interpretation of a foster home would therefore have a three-fold aspect—the gauging of the physical, mental and emotional elements.

The physical elements are such obvious ones that they are touched briefly by merely saying that it is essential that a home be reasonably sanitary, well ventilated, have adequate room and a certain degree of prosperity.

The mental elements are more complex, but not very difficult. Modern psychology enables one to measure the intelligence of the child. The occupational level of the father, together with his financial condition, as well as the attitudes and aspirations of both parents with regard to the educational and occupational endeavors of their children, would determine the degree of intelligence of the child placed. The financial condition is significant in reference to the child placed, because it will determine the opportunities to be afforded the child.

The emotional elements are the most complex, and the most essential. Why is it so essential to know the emotional aspects of a home? Why is it that a wealthy home, which can offer every material and intellectual advantage, is frequently less wholesome for the rearing of children than a home of moderate financial circumstances? Why is it that a family which reveals such

poor physical set-up that it is almost questionable for use, sometimes has an emotional make-up which completely offsets its meagre material aspects—the children thrive because the home affords personality relationships which are thoroughly constructive. And here one is brought to the very heart of the situation, the *raison d'être* of Child Placing in Foster Homes. The very basis of the contribution of foster homes is rooted in the concept that the family circle with its mother and father persons is interwrought with the emotional coloring essential to the conditioning of an individual to the experiences of life, whether those experiences be intellectual or physical—that the home is preferable to the institution. In this connection it should be noted that although a normal family in which the parental relationships as well as the inter-dependent relations of the children are wholesome, will provide an emotional background which will condition a child who fits into their scheme of life, to a constructive reaction to his experiences, still if there are emotional maladjustments in the family relationships, the adoptive or boarding child will be conditioned to react in a destructive level to certain experiences, while the degree, nature, and extent of the emotional maladjustments will determine the degree and nature of the child's destructive reaction. In the emotional "make-up" of a home, therefore, we are dealing with a high potential which has intensive possibilities for good—with equal possibilities for destruction. We can, therefore, not know what we do that is destructive or creative unless we understand the emotional life of a family. How can a worker know the emotional "make-up" of a family? It is well to consider some of the approaches.

The logical start, which taps a source rich in such reactions, is to inquire into the foster parent's *motive* for taking children. It is well to analyze actual motives as stated by applicants.

Mrs. Hastings, a woman of thirty-five, who had been married six years, applied to adopt a child of school age. With tears in her eyes she remarked that she did not ever expect to have children, and she stated that she had therefore gradually made up her mind that she would rather spend her money on a child than on traveling or amusement. She emphasized the point that the returns in *satisfaction* would be greater. She added that she is employed as a private secretary in a school system, and would desire to continue her work. She stayed home the first year of her married life, but found her home in itself far from satisfying. In regard to her husband's motive, she confessed that he was not enthusiastic, but she is not saying much to him about it, instead she is going ahead on her own initiative. It is *her plan*, she will have the complete responsibility and therefore he is not to be considered. She was

emphatic in stating that she wanted the child immediately to give her an interest, and to prevent her from becoming lonely. She added that she is not a dependent person, but would like some one to share her life with her, to become a "*real part of her world.*" We might have taken the applicant's first sketchy explanation of her motive as being the whole story, that is, when she stated that she wanted a child because she did not expect to have children, we might have assumed that it was a perfectly natural and logical situation. We might have surveyed the home from the physical standpoints and lost completely the picture given by the *elaborated* motive which a few questions revealed. The marked emotion, tears, were the clue to an underlying emotional situation. On pushing further we got the impression of a woman who was not thoroughly satisfied with her marital life, and who had therefore an intense drive for a child who would "become a real part of her world." This is not a fixed conclusion at this point, but it is a significant lead to the heart of the situation.

In case after case, if one can get at the true motives one has the lead to the innermost emotional content; when followed they gradually unfold exactly what one should know before placing a child.

(To be continued in May issue)

EDUCATING FOSTER MOTHERS

Foster Mothers' Parties may be educational as well as entertaining. Two special films loaned by the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., were used to advantage by the St. Louis Children's Aid Society.

"Sun Babies," the main film, was well received by all of the foster mothers. The staff physician, popular with all these women, added helpful suggestions to the pictures, and answered questions. The entertainment, which was interspersed, was furnished by two well-known artists. One gave readings dealing with home life, etc., and the other presented musical numbers. Board members furnished and served the refreshments.

Letters to the foster mothers following the meeting, carried a summary of the picture "Sun Babies" and brought out important facts in it.

Local radio broadcasting stations in St. Louis have allowed fifteen minutes weekly to the Children's Aid Society, at which time it may present interesting facts about its work, requests for homes, etc. Recently the talk was preceded by two suitable songs, one a lullaby. That there were listeners in was evident, as almost immediately after the talk ended telephone applications came and letters followed from nearby states.—Miss Hertha Miller, General Secretary, St. Louis Children's Aid Society.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

Cheney C. Jones, New England Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, Mass.
Dr. Thomas Mason Pitman, Colored Orphan Asylum, Riverdale-on-Hudson, New York.

MONDAY, May 7th.—6 P. M.

Annual Dinner and Annual Meeting (Open to all interested), First Methodist Church Missionary Hall.

Trends in the Field of Children's Work.

Chairman: Albert H. Stoneman, Executive Secretary, Michigan Children's Aid Society, Detroit.

Speakers: Albert H. Stoneman, President, Child Welfare League of America.
C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, Child Welfare League of America.
Miss Rhoda Kaufman, Dept. of Public Welfare, Atlanta, Ga.
Henry W. Thurston, New York School of Social Work, New York City.

Business meeting.

TUESDAY, May 8th.—3 P. M.

Ways in Which a State Department of Public Welfare or a State Children's Bureau has Helped in the Development of Child-caring Agencies and Institutions.

Chairman and leader of the discussion:

Mrs. A. M. Tunstall, State Child Welfare Department, Montgomery, Alabama.
William C. Headrick, Department of Institutions, Nashville, Tenn.
Miss Ruth Colby, Children's Bureau, State Board of Control, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Mrs. E. S. H. McCauley, Department of Public Welfare, Harrisburg, Penna.

CONSULTATION SERVICE

The following schedule has been arranged for consultation service. The persons assigned for "desk duty" will be responsible for making appointments for interviews with the Executive Director and members of the League staff, as well as with other persons in the children's field who will be asked to co-operate with the League in giving consultation service.

Thursday, May 3d—Miss Berolzheimer—2-4 p. m.
Saturday, May 5th—Miss Lundberg—8-10 a. m.
Monday, May 7th—Mr. Hopkirk—1.30-3 p. m.
Tuesday, May 8th—Miss Atkinson—1.30-3 p. m.
Wednesday, May 9th—Miss Atkinson—2-4 p. m.

The New England Regional Conference has been postponed until the fall. Notice of definite date and place will appear in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
Vice-President—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.
Secretary—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston,
Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

March 23 and 24, 1928

The largest attendance in the history of the Mid-western Regional Conference heard a very interesting and practical program which ranged all the way from discussion of public welfare work to the presentation of the latest developments in psychiatric service to children.

The case presentation by Mr. Jacob Kepcs, of the Jewish Home Finding Society, dealt with a girl who presented very interesting behavior deviations. This child had been in the care of the Society for six years and had been dealt with in a very scientific manner, but at the end of this time she is still unhappily situated in school and in any environment except the most quiet, and betrays great emotional difficulty. One gathers from the presentation that what salvation there is for the child, aside from the skilled service of the agency, is due to the devotion of a foster mother with whom the child is boarding.

Professor Frank M. Freeman, of the University of Chicago, presented facts from his recent study of the changes in the intelligence quotient of children who have been placed for a number of years in foster homes. This was a most interesting presentation because the study apparently took full account of the many pitfalls that lie before the application of the statistical method to the evaluation of character development. The 400 children who were the subject of this study were chosen at random from a larger group, because they had been in foster homes for a number of years, and because they had remained in the same foster home. They were tested more than once, and in some instances the original intelligence quotient tests had been made. The purpose of the study was to throw light on the contribution that environment may make to the intelligence of children.

Professor Freeman's particular interest is that of an educator, and he believes the findings are of importance in the educational field. Obviously, of course, they are of great importance to those persons who are utilizing foster homes in the care of children. Fully admitting the qualifications that needed to be made, Professor Freeman believes that his tests show that the children

placed in foster homes average equal, or better, than the general run of children in the matter of intelligence.

Considerable detail was secured on a number of children who had been tested when originally placed, and these showed an improvement of 5 to 10 points in the intelligence quotient, following clearly on the character of the homes in which the children had been placed, and although brothers and sisters tend to average the same as a general thing, those placed in different homes reflected the nature of those homes with a difference as great as 9 points in the intelligence quotient. These brothers and sisters also showed less resemblance than is on the average found. The entire group, by grades of homes, showed a difference in intelligence rating of 18 points between the good homes and the poor homes.

The entire statement was too long to reproduce here even briefly, but it has been published in the 27th Year Book of the National Society for the Study of Education, and is well worth the attention of children's workers.

Mrs. Mabel H. Mattingly, of Western Reserve University, Cleveland, presented the findings of a study made of cases of mothers who have kept their illegitimate children. This study, which brings out some exceedingly interesting data, is soon to be published and will be reviewed in the BULLETIN later in detail.

Relations between Public and Private Agencies was the subject of a paper by Miss Belle Greve, of the Department of Public Welfare, Columbus, Ohio. Miss Greve stressed the importance of mutual understanding and of bringing the needs of children into the foreground. Miss Greve raised the question as to whether juvenile courts as well as child-caring agencies should be supervised by the state. She did not state an opinion but implied that because of the character of the work done by some juvenile courts the time may come when some form of supervision will be set up in order to raise the standards of service.

The Psychiatric Demonstration by Dr. Paul Schroefer, of the Institute of Juvenile Research, Chicago, was interesting and well put on. It showed the value of a thorough investigation of all factors surrounding a child who cannot adjust himself to his environment and the many efforts which must be put forth in working out a plan of treatment. Patience and ingenuity and knowledge are required in working out a long time program and gradually developing character in so-called problem children.

The Children's Code round table centered around a discussion of the Minnesota plan of county organizations. Many interesting questions were asked of Mr. Charles F. Hall, of the Minnesota State Board of Control, regarding methods of appointing members, the

state's responsibility, the local community's responsibility and the development of private agencies.

Round tables on the adoption of illegitimate children and on wages and allowances for older children placed in foster homes were conducted by Miss Portia Mengert, of the Social Service Federation, Toledo, and Mr. Leslie Greer, of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, respectively. Both of these meetings were well attended and the discussion of unusual interest.

Dr. John A. Lapp, of Marquette University, Milwaukee, was the speaker at the dinner meeting, his subject being, "Religion and Social Work." Dr. Lapp pointed out that there is nothing more vital than religion to social work, but there seems to be much antagonism, due to misunderstanding. In the final analysis religion and social work are closely related. If we understood the place of both, they would harmonize.

Religion is concerned with the worship of God and the preparation for a future life. Social work is concerned with the perfection of man. It establishes a minimum standard below which man should not be allowed to fall. It teaches justice and charity and provides those things necessary for the brotherhood of man. It helps to build character.

Social work is not designed to take the place of religion or of education but is primarily humanitarian. Religion within the church might carry on social work but social work could never carry on religion. Social work must serve religion.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York, lists the following reprints of leading articles published in the Mental Hygiene Bulletin:

1. Are We Helping or Hindering Our Children? By Geo. S. Stevenson.
2. Does Your Child Confide in You? By Goldie Basch.
3. How to be Popular. By Anne T. Bingham.
4. The Place of Mental Hygiene in the Public Schools. By Stanley P. Davies.
5. Mental Hygiene of Childhood. By William A. White.
6. About "Insanity": What Some People Used to Believe Versus What Science Teaches Today.
7. Suggestions for Reading in Mental Hygiene. By Kathleen Ormsby and Frankwood E. Williams, M.D. Revised to December, 1927.

Plans have been made for a luncheon on Friday, May 4th, for board members and volunteer workers attending the National Conference of Social Work. Mr. Milton S. Binswanger, Chairman of the Memphis Local Committee, will preside.

INSTITUTION NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

"3. Placement of a full orphan in a foster home is advisable for the simple reason that there is no longer any possibility of rehabilitation in his own home. If he be raised in an institution, then the problem of adjustment to a new environment presents itself just at a time when the child is in his adolescent years and should already be attached to permanent foster parents.

"When it is an established fact, however, that the living parent is mentally, morally, or physically incapable of giving a child even a fair amount of care for a period of time, then the question as to the best type of placement for the child arises.

"As it has been previously mentioned, the modern trend leans toward the foster home. I would like to point out to you, however, the factors which in my opinion contribute to the advisability of institutional life.

"Institutional placement is advisable in only those cases where rehabilitation is possible.

"In the first place, routine life does a great deal for a child's physical upbuilding—it teaches him punctuality and regularity of living.

"Second. Intensive religious training develops character and instills in them the love of Judaism, giving them a racial background of which they can be proud.

"Third. Supervised recreation makes it possible for the child to enjoy and indulge in varied activities, enabling him to develop to the fullest extent his special abilities.

"Fourth. Assurance of permanency tends to stabilize—there is no shifting nor experimenting in private or foster homes, but a permanent abode until such a time when his own home is rehabilitated, or he is ready to be placed as a member in a family.

"It is my belief that children should not continue in an institution for a definite period of time just for the sole reason of graduating, but every effort should be put forth to assist in the rehabilitation of their home, or some other home, as this is advisable.

"I find it essential as a means towards the stabilization of the living parent, that, whenever possible, he should be made to meet at least a partial financial responsibility towards the maintenance of his child."—JOSEPH NESHKES.

CHILDREN'S WEIGHTS GO UP BUT FOOD COST GOES DOWN

The following article, copied from the RED CROSS COURIER of March 15, 1928, offers a concrete illustration of the kind of service which a nutritionist can give to a child-caring institution:

"The little inmates of a children's home were more than half underweight, while kitchen expenses ran high. So a member of the governing board asked a Red Cross nutritionist for aid.

"The board, composed of an interested and intelligent group of women, soon found why food bills were heavy and the physical results poor. Market orders showed the purchase of large amounts of bologna and wiener

sausages, while milk averaged only a pint a day for a child, and the amount of butter and other fats was inadequate. Ice cream, when used, was purchased in double the quantity required to serve all. The acting superintendent told the nutritionist that the children did not have hot suppers because the cook did not like to stay late in the afternoon. Hot cereals were not served in the morning because the cook did not want to give the time, or bother to use the fireless cooker. Nor did the cook like to serve foods that took trouble to prepare, like mashed potatoes. Another waste was in the use of small cans of fruit and vegetables in the place of large cans.

"The nutritionist now took charge. A new cook was installed. When oatmeal was served for breakfast, some of the children did not like it because they had never tasted it before. One little boy cried because the superintendent insisted that he eat it, but afterwards he would be the first at the table on oatmeal mornings. It also took an explanation to get the children to eat wheat cereals.

"Sandwiches attractively prepared and nutritious were also a novelty. One youngster ate eight of them the first time they were put on the table, and the next time asked if he might have nine.

"At the end of the second month of the new régime only one child was found to be underweight out of the 52. There were no longer any complaints after meals about being still hungry and not having enough.

"The 17 children of school age in the home were instructed in nutrition and received their Red Cross certificates."

MAY DAY IS CHILD HEALTH DAY

We are reminded by the American Child Health Association that May Day, 1928, is just over the horizon. The idea of May Day for Child Health captured the imagination of America five years ago and has continued to serve as an inspirational medium through which to focus thought upon wholesome childhood.

In the large, May Day has become a means of permeating the whole nation with higher standards of health for children and the hope of wholeness. Specifically, it is helping to build machinery which reinforces these standards and fulfils this hope. Every state in the Union, as well as Hawaii, last year had a May Day organization. In thirty-five states that organization centered in the State Boards of Health, which means that there was official motive power back of this "poetic impulse."

Mr. Hoover, who, as president of the American Child Health Association, has carried over to American children his intense interest in the conservation of child life aroused by his European experience, several years ago framed a Child's Bill of Rights, which has become the working platform of the May Day campaign. Back of that Bill of Rights has accumulated a great volume of public sentiment. It has been called the Magna Charta of childhood.

Those rights hinge upon seven clearly defined points:

- Preparedness for parenthood.
- Wholesome environment.
- Sound nutrition.
- Physical examination, correction of defects, protection against disease.
- Training in health habits and knowledge.
- Mental and emotional soundness.
- Spiritual encouragement.

Those seven cardinal points stand for seven definite goals. If everywhere in this country parenthood—using the term in the large sense—should rally around those goals, we should undoubtedly begin to realize new human assets, which would contribute towards the "full miracle of the world re-born."

COMING EVENTS

- April 24-27, 1928—Canadian Conference on Social Work, Montreal, Canada. Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Jean Walker, 15 St. Hilda's Avenue, Toronto, Canada.
- May 9-13—Joint Conference of the National Conference of Jewish Social Service, National Association of Jewish Community Center Secretaries and National Council for Jewish Education, Cincinnati, Ohio. For information, address Harold H. Levin, Y.M.H.A., 92d St. and Lexington Avenue, New York City.

CHARITY RATE TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Transportation of Allied National Agencies has issued a statement regarding the use and investigation for charity rate transportation, because so much confusion exists as to the difference between signing the Transportation Agreement and securing the charity rate privilege.

The issuance of Charity Rate transportation is in the hands of the railroads and has no connection with the Committee on Transportation of Allied National Agencies and is not secured by signing the Transportation Agreement.

If the organization applying for a Charity Rate ticket from another organization is a signer of the Transportation Agreement, two points must be kept in mind: (a) Facts in evidence that the client cannot pay full fare; (this is in line with provisions made by the railroads regarding the issuance of Charity Rates); (b) Facts in evidence that the destination arrangements have been made.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

Children's Home Society of Milwaukee changed to Children's Home and Aid Society.

MAKING GOOD TO FIVE THOUSAND MOTHERS

The Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania has issued a report which is in the nature of a "post-mortem" on the successful legislative campaign waged in Pennsylvania during 1926 and 1927 to secure an increased appropriation to the Mothers' Assistance Fund. The fact that it has been deemed worth while to point out the strength and weakness of the campaign indicates a wholesome interest in checking up on the methods employed in interpreting social work to the community.

"If we are wise," the report states, "we shall learn from this campaign certain lessons that are fundamental in building for social welfare within our state. What are these lessons?

"First: That public social work has an educational job to do. Public welfare does not live by administration alone. It requires from the citizens of the State, first, understanding—an informed intelligent public opinion—and second, support, based on understanding and conviction.

"Second: That there are two essential elements in any important legislative campaign: education, which is the fundamental method of democracy; and political strategy, which is a practical necessity in dealing with political realities.

"Third: That a state-wide welfare project depends for success largely upon sound local organization. Pennsylvania consists of 67 counties. Organization on the basis of the counties and local communities is fundamental.

"Fourth: That the greatest success in public social work comes from a union of forces on the part of technically qualified public officials and interested citizens.

"Fifth: That state-wide solidarity is the only basis for state-wide progress in social welfare.

"If the social workers and socially minded citizens of this State should come to recognize and act upon these truths, they would open the door to limitless possibilities for the advancement of human welfare within Pennsylvania."

"FIT AND PROPER?"

is the title of a Study of Legal Adoption in Massachusetts by Ida R. Parker, Associate Director, Research Bureau on Social Case Work, and distributed by the Church Home Society for the Care of Children of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Boston. By request of the Department on Children of the Boston Council of Social Agencies, Miss Parker undertook to find out what the adoption practice in the State of Massachusetts actually is and how a group of adopted children have turned out.

"Fit and Proper?" makes a valuable contribution to what we know about the subject of adoption. Copies will be on sale at the headquarters of the Child Welfare League of America at Memphis.

STAFF NOTES

The field work in connection with the Tulsa survey has been completed and a brief preliminary report has already been submitted.

Thirty years ago Tulsa was only a point at which the trail widened as it led to the shores of the Arkansas River. Today it is a bustling city nearing 150,000 in population. Buoyancy and color and a flair for taking a chance and being a good winner and a better loser—these are elements which make the Spirit of Tulsa something very real. After two months and a half one comes to believe in the slogan, "Tulsa gets what she wants."

The job of the Child Welfare League of America has been to help Tulsa want a modern children's program. If the League succeeds in its task there is every reason to believe that Tulsa will be a pacemaker for the whole southwest—a region so vast, so fraught with opportunity for social development and of such infinite variety that even an itinerant social worker has to guard herself against the over-enthusiasms of a Chamber of Commerce publicity agent.

The study of the Intake Policies of the Children's Village at Dobbs Ferry, New York, undertaken by the League at the request of the Board of Directors of the Village, has been completed. The Study, which has been in progress for five months past, was conducted by Miss Emma O. Lundberg, with the assistance of Miss Elizabeth M. Clarke and Miss Katherine G. Vose.

Mr. H. W. Hopkirk left New York on April 12th to begin an intensive study of the fifteen orphanages in the southern states operated by the Presbyterian Church, South. In 1927, Mr. Hopkirk made brief visits to these institutions and later prepared a report, "Data for Study," for the Department of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church. The request for a detailed study is the result of the preliminary work done.

Mr. C. C. Carstens, Executive Director, attended the Midwestern Regional Conference in Chicago, going from there to Tulsa for two days' consultation on the Tulsa survey. He also spent several days in Columbus and Dayton. Practically all of the month of April has been spent in the New York office.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

SOURCE MATERIALS AFTER MANY DAYS: THE CASE OF EDWARD CAHILL. By Blanche J. Paget, Children's Bureau of Philadelphia.
THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CLEVELAND HUMANE SOCIETY.

**INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON
ILLEGITIMACY
BULLETIN**

*President: MRS. EDITH M. H. BAYLOR, Boston, Mass.
Vice-President: MISS RUTH COLBY, St. Paul, Minn.
Secretary-Treasurer: MISS MAUD MORLOCK, Cleveland, Ohio.*

**THE INTER-RELATION OF MATERNITY
HOMES AND CHILDREN'S AGENCIES**

*Mrs. MARJORIE P. SANDERSON, Supervisor of Case Work
Maternity Home and Hospital maintained by the
Florence Crittenton League, Boston, Mass.*

It is practically impossible for any one agency to be so fully equipped that unaided it can satisfactorily handle every problem which arises in the performance of its own special functions. In the minds of most girls and their families a maternity home is a place of refuge where the girl will be protected and cared for during confinement, and where the baby can be left when the mother is about to return home. The maternity home is really much more, but this aspect of the function of the maternity home is so clearly set forth in an admirable article by Miss Mildred P. Carpenter, Executive Secretary of the Rochester Community Home for Girls, in the March 15th issue of the Child Welfare League of America BULLETIN, that I hardly need to say more on that subject.

The real problem is not so much what is desirable to do, as by what means this object may be more efficiently accomplished. Any discussion of this subject necessarily involves a consideration of actual problems, and of necessity these problems must be chosen from the ones which have arisen in our own Home. Naturally the functions of the maternity home which does its own case work are more extensive than the Home which has no case work department, and consequently the problems which arise are more varied.

Following application for admission comes a preliminary investigation of the prenatal care, the hospital treatment, convalescence, re-adjustment and the making and carrying out of plans for the future welfare of both mother and baby. General and physical limitations prevent even the largest social organization from being wholly sufficient for this, and this becomes apparent from the very first. Some of our cases come from such a distance that personal investigation is impractical. To local children's agencies we owe much for the splendid help in investigating these cases.

Naturally, the prenatal, hospital, convalescence, physical and mental re-adjustments are entirely a function of the Maternity Home and Hospital. Coming now to the last of the functions which I have men-

tioned, the making and carrying out of the plans for mother and baby, we again meet the necessity of calling upon the various children's agencies for assistance. The reason for this is often misunderstood and arises from the fact that many case situations exist which require special treatment that the Home is not equipped to give. These situations seldom, if ever, arise from the fact that the Home has undertaken a case which should have gone in the first instance to some other organization for its social supervision. It seems to me that this shows rather the need for the cordial co-ordination of organizations which are fitted to handle successfully different phases of difficult and complicated problems. This perhaps may be best illustrated by a brief statement of some of the typical cases where this need arises.

These cases naturally fall into two general classifications: first, when the situation is such where the case can be handled by turning it over entirely to some other agency, and second, where it would seem better that the immediate supervision of the case should be left with the Case Department in the Home but assistance is needed. This second class of cases includes delicate babies who require special placement and care for a limited period which can be best furnished by an agency which specializes in that kind of work. It would seem, however, that much better results would be obtained if the Case Department of the Home retained general supervision of the case and the Specialized Agency rendered its assistance through the Home. The principal argument in favor of this plan seems to be the desirability of bringing the girl into contact with as few social organizations as possible, realizing the nature of the problem on which we are working.

The co-ordination between maternity homes can be and is reciprocal. Many of the girls who enter our Home are referred by other agencies for maternity care and treatment only and are then returned to the referring agency. In most of these cases the referring agency retains general supervision and no private investigation is made by the Home unless requested by the agency.

This is an age of specialization and it seems that this specialization might be advantageously extended to social agencies, thus saving much duplication of work.

The Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy will have a luncheon at Memphis on Tuesday, May 8th, at one o'clock. The topic for discussion will be, "How a Society with High Ideals Can Deal with Problems of Illegitimacy." Miss Emma S. Hardcastle, of the Georgia Children's Home Society, will be the discussion leader. At three o'clock on the same day the business meeting of the conference will be held.